



Where ideas connect

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Executive Director

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Brent C. Bradford
Deputy Director

168 North 1950 West
P.O. Box 144810
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4810
(801) 536-4400
(801) 536-0061 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.
www.deq.utah.gov

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«FirstName» «LastName»
«Company»
«Address1»
«City» «State» «PostalCode»

Dear Mr. «LastName»:

The Utah DEQ Division of Air Quality is forming a Stakeholder Advisory Group to assist in developing Utah's state plan for regional haze, and I would like you to be part of that group. The first meeting will be held on **April 1, 11:00am - 2:30 pm**, in Room 201 of the DEQ building at 168 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City. A draft agenda is enclosed.

The plan will implement the federal regional haze rule issued in 1999. You can access the rule text at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1/fr_notices/rhfedreg.pdf. The rule requires Utah to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) to assure "reasonable progress" towards meeting the national goal of preventing any future, and remedying any existing impairment of visibility in national parks and wilderness areas resulting from manmade air pollution. Sources of manmade air pollution that contribute to the formation of regional haze include, among other things, industrial processes, motor vehicles, and area sources such as forest fires, road dust, and some agricultural activities.

The regional haze rule provides flexibility as to how states may go about reducing air pollution to achieve reasonable progress. All of Utah's five federally protected areas were included in analyses conducted in the mid-1990s by the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission, in which many Utahns participated. Utah plans to submit its regional haze SIP under the provisions of the federal rule that implement the Commission's recommendations because EPA has agreed that those strategies meet the reasonable progress requirement through 2018. In addition, these provisions give us the opportunity for regional cooperation via the Western Regional Air Partnership in developing the information and policies needed for the plan while still maintaining Utah's authority to adopt the plan that meets our needs. The SIP must be submitted to EPA by December 31, 2003.

The stakeholder process will continue until the Air Quality Board takes action in December. I ask your involvement to assist us in reaching out to stakeholders and in understanding and addressing any concerns that you or your constituencies may have as the SIP is developed.

For more information about the Utah stakeholder process, please see DAQ's website at www.airquality.utah.gov/SIP/Sip.htm and click on the bullet for the "Regional Haze SIP." I have included a copy of the Advisory Group Charter with this letter. We anticipate that the Stakeholder Advisory Group will meet 2 - 4 times after the first meeting. For more information on regional haze and state plans in the West, you can try www.wrapair.org.

Please call me at 801-536-4404 if you have questions, or you can reach DAQ Director Rick Sprott at 801-536-4022.

Best regards,

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosures